



World Apheresis Association

April 2022

NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dear
Members of
the World
Apheresis
Association,*



**Fevzi Altuntas, MD
WAA President**

Although the ongoing pandemic of SARS-CoV-2 started 2 years ago, its effects still continue worldwide. More than 240 million people have been infected and unfortunately, more than 5 million patients have died from COVID-19. Over 50% of the world population has received at least one dose of a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine. More than 7 billion doses have been administered globally and almost 28 million are administered each day. Despite rapid vaccination programs in developed countries, only 4% of people in low-income countries have been vaccinated so far.

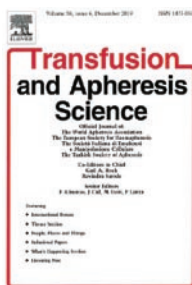
Publications in Transfusion and Apheresis Science

During this ongoing pandemic, we, apheresis specialists, have an essential task. Therapeutic convalescent plasma has been used extensively, especially in people with severe or critically ill disease. Extracorporeal apheresis methods were used in

hypercytokinemia due to SARS-CoV-2. The possible benefits of mesenchymal stem cell transfusion were demonstrated, especially in cases with severe lung injury. On all these issues, the literature sent from all over the world was published in the WAA official journal "Transfusion and Apheresis Science", and it was ensured that the knowledge and experiences of experts in the field of apheresis regarding the management of COVID-19 were shared. In addition to these, literature on the importance and management of blood banking during the pandemic period has also been published in the "Transfusion and Apheresis Science" journal. To increase international collaborations, I would like to invite all our members to support our journal and send their experiences and share their knowledge.

WAA webinars

As the WAA, we organized a webinar on September 15, 2021 to share our knowledge and experience about COVID-19 and discuss important issues related to apheresis. The participation of approximately 200 scientists from all over the world, including Peru, Equator, Indonesia, Argentina, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Uzbekistan indicates that the WAA successfully continues its mission of sharing knowledge and experience, cooperation and collaboration among apheresis scientists all over the world. In this context, I would like to thank all my colleagues who contributed



Continued on Page 3

**17th International Congress of the
World Apheresis Association**
Grand Cevahir Hotel and Convention Centre
SEPTEMBER 14-17, 2022





WAA April 2022

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Please direct comments, questions or
submissions to the contact above.

WEBSITE: www.worldapheresis.org

OUR SPONSOR

As we go to press at the beginning of 2022 and as we enter the third year of the Covid 19 Pandemic we are delighted to bring you information from the member societies of the WAA. This newsletter has been sponsored by TERUMO, a major corporation providing the sophisticated devices that make our procedures possible. To them, many thanks for their continued support. To all of you, please stay safe and we wish you the very best in 2022.



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Eighteen member-organizations of the WAA in 2022

ASSOCIATION NAME	ACRONYM	PRESIDENT	COUNTRY
1. Associação Brasileira de Hematologia, Hemoterapia e Terapia Celular	ABHH	Dima Dante Langhi Jr.	Brazil
2. Asociación Mexicana de Medicina Transfusional A.C.	AMMTAC	Lucía Zamudio Godínez RN	Mexico
3. American Society For Apheresis	ASFA	Laura Collins, RN	USA
4. Canadian Apheresis Group	CAG	Gail Rock	Canada
5. Chinese Society of Infectious Diseases	CSID	Guiqiang Wang	China
6. European Society for Artificial Organs	ESAO	Piotr Ladyzynski	Europe
7. European Society for Haemapheresis & Haemotherapy	ESFH	Miguel Lozano	Europe
8. Hellenic Haemapheresis Society	HHS	Eirini Grapsa	Greece
9. Hematological Rare Diseases Society	HRDS	Mehmet Ali Erkurt	Turkey
10. Indian Society for Apheresis	ISA	Rakesh Srivastava	India
11. International Society For Apheresis	ISFA	Andre Kaplan	International
12. Israeli Transfusion Medicine Working Group	ITMWG	Vered Yahlom	Israel
13. Korean Society for Apheresis	KSFA	Chae Seung Lim	Korea
14. Philippine Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion	PSHBT	Marilou A. Abiera	Philippines
15. Société Française d'Hémoaphérèse	SFH	Farhad Heshmati	France
16. Società Italiana di Emaferesi	SIdEM	Angelo Ostuni	Italy
17. Turkish Society of Apheresis	TSA	Fatih Demirkan	Turkey
18. The Association of Hematologists and Transfusiology of Uzbekistan	UHTO	Saidov Alonur Bakhtinurovich	Uzbekistan

The WAA Board representative (Councillor) of each association, is listed on the left side of the front cover.

Continued from the Front Cover — MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

to the organization of this webinar, especially our esteemed scientists Dr. Nicole Aquí (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA), Dr. Martin Steinberg (Boston University, Massachusetts, USA), Dr. Jerrold Levy (Duke University, North Carolina, USA) and Dr. Theodore Warkentin (McMaster University, Hamilton Canada) who agreed to be speakers and chairs Dr. Gail Rock and Dr. Hans Vrieling.

We grow bigger and bigger every day

As you know, the WAA was founded in 1986 with eight societies; by 2022, I am honored to say that WAA represents 18 international member societies as an umbrella organization. I am delighted to see that new applications continue to be made to join the WAA and that in doing so, the WAA grows bigger and bigger every day. Today, the WAA has undoubtedly become one of the most prestigious organizations in its field. For that, I am grateful to every single one of our member societies who work harder to become much better. Everyone under this umbrella of the WAA invigorates this organization. Furthermore, I would like to invite all of you to join the WAA Registry when possible. With a strong registry, the WAA can facilitate large-scale studies and provide new insights into the internationally used indications, treatment, and adverse events.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the member societies for collaborating in my presidential continuum. As a president of the World Apheresis Association, it was my pleasure to have the opportunity to work with you. Honestly, everyone did their best, and WAA has become one of the most influential organizations worldwide.

17th International Congress of the World Apheresis Association in Istanbul

It is also a pleasure for me to announce that the XVII International Congress of the World Apheresis Association will be held in Istanbul, Turkey. Due to the postponement because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the “17th International Congress of the World Apheresis Association” originally planned for 17-20 October 2020 was postponed to 2022 based on a decision of the scientific board. The scientific program will cover various topics related to apheresis, especially the most up-to-date apheresis technologies and their clinical applications. As the WAA represents international members who are nurses, technicians, and other individuals besides physicians, educational programs will be held during the congress for allied health professionals. I hope that the meeting will be well attended and successful regarding both the scientific and social value to our members and guests.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the member societies and board members. I hope that this pandemic will end soon, and the patients with COVID-19 will regain their health immediately. In 2022, I look forward to welcoming you to the 17th International Congress of the World Apheresis Association in Istanbul.

Fevzi Altuntas, MD
WAA President

INVITATION

Dear colleagues, We would like to announce that the 17th International Congress of the World Apheresis Association will be held in late fall of 2022 in Istanbul as a joint meeting of the European Society for Hemapheresis and The Turkish Society of Hematological Rare Diseases. Istanbul, the only city in the world built on two continents, stands on both shores of the Bosphorus where the waters of the Black Sea mingle with those of the Sea of Marmara. Istanbul has endless variety with its gourmet restaurants and nightlife,



arts, museums, ancient churches, palaces, great mosques, bazaars, and Bosphorus. However long you stay, whether a few days or longer, your visit to this eclectic city will be unforgettable. We would like to thank you all for your cooperation and understanding during this difficult period. We look forward to welcoming you to the World Apheresis Association Congress, 2022, in ISTANBUL!

Prof. Dr. Fevzi Altuntaş - (Congress President)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Despite the restrictions imposed by the global pandemic, the Membership Committee succeeded in recruiting the Israel Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion (ISHBT) to apply for membership in the WAA. The Society's Transfusion Medicine Working Group consists of doctors, scientists and Allied Health professionals in the field of Transfusion Medicine and Apheresis. Over 2000 apheresis procedures are performed annually in Israeli tertiary hospitals. Their membership was unanimously approved at the November 9, 2021 WAA board meeting. Our President sent the following letter:



December 11, 2021.

Dear Drs. Ellis and Yahalom,

It is with very great pleasure that I report the unanimous decision of the Board of Directors of the World Apheresis Association (WAA) to welcome the Israeli Society of Hematology and Transfusion Medicine to our association as a full member. The WAA currently comprises 18 member societies, and, for more than 30 years, has played an important role in sharing information on apheresis science and practice throughout the world.

As a member of the WAA, the ISHT gains an opportunity for direct contact with practitioners from around the world at our (usually) biannual Congress and for sharing information through our journal, Transfusion and Apheresis Science, our newsletter, and our website. You are also entitled to appoint a Councillor to represent ISHT on the WAA Board of Directors and to appoint a member of ISHT to the editorial board of Transfusion and Apheresis Science.

We look forward to your active participation in the organization and thank you for your interest in joining the WAA.

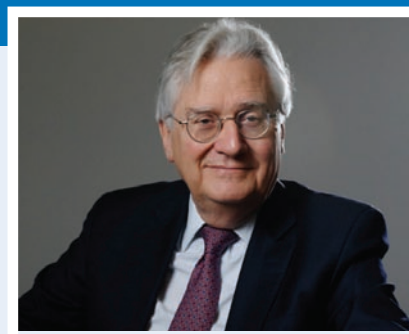
Fevzi Altuntas
President of the WAA



Dr. Robert Weinstein,
Chair
WAA Membership
Committee

THE COHN DE LAVAL AWARD

The World Apheresis Association is pleased to announce that Dr. Loïc Guillevin is the recipient of the Cohn de Laval Award. The Cohn de Laval Award is the WAA's most prestigious award, designed to recognize individuals who have made major contributions to the discipline of apheresis. Dr. Guillevin has had a long and important role in the WAA and in the Société Française d'Hémoaphérèse (SFH) and previously organized one of the joint WAA /SFH meetings which was most successful. The Cohn de Laval will be presented to Dr. Guillevin by the President of the WAA, Dr. Fevzi Altuntas and the President of the European Society for Hemapheresis (ESFH) Dr. Miquel Lozano at the upcoming Congress.



Dr. Loïc Guillevin

Before Dr. Guillevin's hospital retirement, he was the head of Service de Médecine Interne at Hôpital Cochin, Paris, France. He was one of the members of the Board of Trustees of the Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris and a member of the Medical Council of the University of Paris Descartes. He also sat on several research councils, as a member or president, and was responsible for funding clinical research projects in France. He is currently an Emeritus Professor of Medicine at the University Paris Descartes and a Member of the French Académie Nationale de Médecine.

Dr. Guillevin is still professionally active maintaining a daily outpatient clinic. He participates in prospective trials on autoimmune diseases and advises younger colleagues on how to set up and organize clinical trials. In addition, he edits national and international books and medical journals.

WAA APHERESIS REGISTRY REPORT

Report of the WAA Apheresis Registry Working Group: November 2021

During the year 2019/2020 we have focused on analyses of data from the World Apheresis Association registry. First, in regard to overall apheresis activities and secondly with a specific analysis of extracorporeal photopheresis therapy.

Apheresis seems to help improve renal function in MPO and especially in PR-3 ANCA.(ref 3 below).

A total of 11,700 apheresis procedures have been registered. Numerous of these have been performed in children. Adverse events have decreased over the years. One patient has died (of myocardial infarction) during apheresis- It was a severely ill patient suffering from TTP – this was an episode that could not be excluded to be related to apheresis. (See ref 4 below).

During 2020 apheresis procedures on patients with covid-19 disease have also been performed. A participation in planning a controlled study of covid patients has been on-going this spring. It has been launched by the Copenhagen University.

We published a paper recommending attempts with apheresis in the rare antibody mediated vaccine induced thrombocytopenia.

Data of AEs in TTP within the frame of the WAA apheresis are included. (ref 5 below).

A poster with this topic was accepted November 2021 at the Swedish Society of Physician congress of Covid-19 Disease.

Published or accepted manuscripts during latest 2 years related to WAA register studies. 1,2-5

1. Goto J, Newman E, Witt V, et al. Evaluation of health and quality of life in apheresis patients - data from the WAA register. Transfus Apher Sci 2019; 58: 641-644. 2019/09/15. DOI: 10.1016/j.transci.2019.08.024.
2. Blaha M, Gasova Z, Berlin G, et al. Analysis of extracorporeal photopheresis within the frame of the WAA register. Transfus Apher Sci 2021; 60: 103172. 2021/06/02. DOI: 10.1016/j.transci.2021.103172.
3. Mortzell Henriksson M, Weiner M, Sperker W, et al. Analyses of registry data of patients with anti-GBM and antineutrophil cytoplasmatic antibody-associated (ANCA) vasculitis treated with or without therapeutic apheresis. Transfus Apher Sci 2021: 103227. 2021/08/14. DOI: 10.1016/j.transci.2021.103227.
4. Stegmayr B, Newman E, Witt V, et al. Using the World Apheresis Association Registry Helps to Improve the Treatment Quality of Therapeutic Apheresis. Transfus Med Hemother 2021; 48: 234-239. 2021/09/21. DOI: 10.1159/000513123.
5. Rock G, Weber V and Stegmayr B. Therapeutic plasma exchange (TPE) as a plausible rescue therapy in severe vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia. Transfus Apher Sci 2021; 60: 103174. 2021/06/06. DOI: 10.1016/j.transci.2021.103174.

For the WAA Apheresis working group
On behalf of Bernd Stegmayr

Umea, Nov 6, 2021

REGISTRY COMMITTEES

The WAA Registry Committee 2016-2018

Chair: Bernd Stegmayr

Members:

- Farhad Heshmati, France
- Gail Rock, Canada
- Tarik Kanouni, France
- Giustina De Silvestro, Italy
- Bill Clark, WAA Past-President

The WAA Registry Committee 2018-2022

Chair: Volker Witt, Austria

Members:

- Gail Rock, Canada
- Tarik Kanouni, France
- Giustina De Silvestro, Italy
- Serdal Korkmaz, Turkey
- Fevzi Altuntas, WAA President

TURKISH SOCIETY OF APHERESIS

Progress with education and standardization

The Turkish Society of Apheresis (TSA) was established in 2000 as a non-profit organization. The society has more than 150 members from different disciplines of medicine, including physicians, apheresis technicians and nurses.

New BODs of TSA were established as of April 2021. Our former general secretary Prof. Hasan Atilla Ozkan was elected as the new president of TSA. Prof. Ilknur Kozanoglu will serve as general secretary and WAA counselor of our society during 2020-2022.

Supporting educational activities is of utmost importance for our society. In line with this policy, TSA performed 3 educational webinars in the last year and planned to perform every month regularly in 2022.

The 16th national congress of TSA just carried out via live webinar event with more than 500 participants between 23-26 December 2021. The scientific program covered almost all aspects of the apheresis science in the field of technicians, nurses and clinicians. The 17th national congress of TSA will be scheduled as a face-to-face organization in October 2022.

All colleagues are kindly invited to participate this meeting.

Turkish Society of Apheresis Board of Directors

President:	Hasan Atilla Ozkan (atillaozkan@yahoo.com)
Vice President:	Fahir Ozkalemkas
General Secretary:	Ilknur Kozanoglu (ipamuk5@gmail.com)
Treasurer:	Erman Ozturk
Research Secretary:	Ali Hakan Kaya
Members:	Hülya Bilgen Yasin Yildirim

WAA ALLIED- HEALTH- ACTIVITIES

The WAA encourages the activities of our nurses and operators without whose efforts we could not function. We invite our Allied Health members to let us hear from you both in the newsletter and our journal, Transfusion and Apheresis Science in the Listening Post section which was established in order to provide a forum for the exchange of information between members of the Allied-Health Community. Articles are most welcome and can be sent to waa@worldapheresis.org.

ABOUT THE WORLD APHERESIS ASSOCIATION

THE WAA GOALS AND PURPOSES ARE

- to provide an organization through which all
- professional societies dedicated to research and/or clinical practice in apheresis can communicate and collaborate;
- to foster global collaboration in scientific investigation, research, clinical applications, education, and exchange of information relating to apheresis and allied fields in clinical and laboratory medicine;
- to facilitate the availability of safe and effective apheresis techniques for the collection of donor cells and plasma as well as the removal or modification of blood constituents in disease;
- to encourage and advance high standards of administrative and technical performance in the field of apheresis;
- to manage a worldwide registry of patients treated by therapeutic apheresis.



CURRENT WAA EXECUTIVE



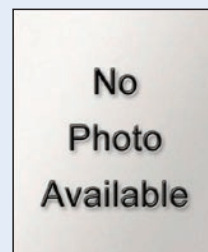
Dr. Fevzi Altuntas
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Dr. Robert Weinstein
VP Americas



Christine Fernandez
Allied Health
Liaison



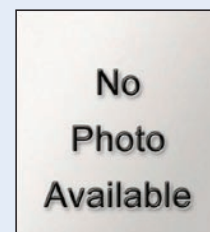
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VP Europe



Dr. Rainer Moog
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Tim Brown
Industry
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Dr. Angelina Mirasol
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Your Next WAA Executive Board

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Allied Health Liaison	Christine M. Fernandez RN, MSN	USA
Industry Rep	Tim Brown	USA



SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE D'HÉMAPHÉRÈSE

*Dear
Colleagues,*

France, as other countries, has been affected by the Covid-19 epidemic since last year. There was an overload of hospital services when most of them were transformed to host the Covid patients. The apheresis facilities and activities were exempt and did continue their activities. Some new indications appeared like plasma exchange for patients with Covid complicated by cytokine storm and several clinical trials started in France. Another new activity consisted of plasma collection from cured Covid patients for passive immunotherapy.



Farhad Heshmati,
MD, PhD
President

2020 was the only year when we could not organize any congress or meeting, due to both a ban on regrouping and work overload. Thus, the national congress that was initially scheduled in November 2020 was canceled and moved to 2021.

The 18th national congress was scheduled on November 9th and 10th 2021 in Paris.

Due to the massive vaccination in France, we are now allowed to set up a congress.

The program is available on the SFH site (www.hemapherese.fr). With our best wishes

Farhad Heshmati,
MD, PhD
President



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EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR HEMAPHERESIS

Dear Colleagues of WAA,

In 2020, ESFH, as we all, had to deal with the upheaval provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic. We had planned to organize the 21st congress of ESFH between 25 and 26 of June in Vienna, with Prof. Gerda Leitner as the congress president. However, the epidemiological situation that we had in Europe in the spring, showed us that having a face-to-face meeting in June would be impossible, so we initially decided to postpone the meeting to the autumn. But, the pandemic situation worsened so that finally again we postponed the meeting to May 2021, but this time with a two afternoon, virtual event.



Miquel Lozano

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Prof. Margarete Grimus
(margarete.grimus@aon.at)

Web: <http://esfh.eu>

The meeting was successful, with 141 registered participants from 27 countries from Europe, North and South America and Asia. In the afternoon of two consecutive days, we had 4 symposiums that covered different aspects of apheresis activities from vascular access, to apheresis techniques; from the new strategies used in the management of TTP to the clinical impact of allogeneic stem cell cryopreservation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The PDF of the slides and the videos of the presentations are freely available on the web page of the ESFH (www.esfh.eu)

Miquel Lozano, MD, PhD
President of ESFH



17th International Congress of the World Apheresis Association Grand Cevahir Hotel and Convention Centre

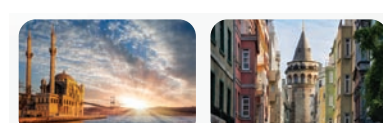
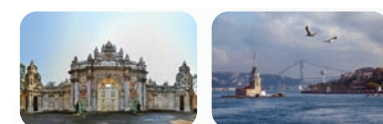


SEPTEMBER 14-17, 2022

17th WAA & 22nd ESFH 6th TSHRD

Hybrid Joint Congress

CONGRESS CITY - ISTANBUL



www.waa2022.org
* Please follow our website regularly for new announcements.

Registration Is Now Open!

To register
please go to:

<http://waa2022.org/accommodation-3/>

Register before
July 27

and receive a discount
on the price of hotel.

Abstract Submissions:

The deadline for abstract
submissions is

May 20, 2022.

Authors will be informed
of their acceptance on

June 3, 2022.

To submit
your abstract
please follow this link:

[http://waa2022.org/online/
abstract-submission.html](http://waa2022.org/online/abstract-submission.html)

WE WELCOME YOU TO THE 17TH CONGRESS OF THE WAA

It is a great honor to announce that the 17th WAA and the 22nd ESFH will be held in Istanbul between September 14-17, 2022, as a joint congress.

Istanbul, the only city in the world built on two continents, stands on both shores of the Bosphorus where the waters of the Black Sea mingle with those of the Sea of Marmara. Istanbul has endless variety with its gourmet restaurants and nightlife, arts, museums, ancient churches, palaces, great mosques, bazaars and Bosphorus. No matter how long you stay, whether for just a few days or longer, your visit to this beautiful city will be unforgettable.

The scientific program covers topics from all the different fields related to hemapheresis. State of the art lectures, evidence-based apheresis sessions, and satellite symposia covering information on the most up-to-date apheresis technologies and their clinical applications, will be the main parts of the program.

We believe the scientific success of a congress depends on the contribution of its delegates. Therefore, we hope that you will all be actively involved in the organization of a truly satisfying, memorable, highly scientific congress. We have no doubt that the scientific program, Turkish hospitality, the charm of Istanbul and our unforgettable social events will help establish closer social and professional links to all our friends and colleagues from all over the world. Let's meet in a city that never sleeps and offers everything possible for different tastes.

We look forward to welcoming you to our joint congress between September 14-17, 2022 in Istanbul.

Dr. Fevzi Altuntaş, WAA President



With great happiness I invite you to attend the face-to-face joint meeting of the World Apheresis Association, the Turkish Society of Hematological Rare Diseases and the European Society for Hemapheresis.

The meeting will be held in the beautiful city of Istanbul, Turkey between September 14th and 17th, a period of the year that will allow us to enjoy not only the excellent scientific program prepared by the Scientific Committee but also the art and history of the city.

Looking forward to meeting in person in Istanbul in September.

Kind regards,
Dr. Miquel Lozano, ESFH President



WAA Scientific Committee

Fevzi ALTUNTAS	Gail ROCK
Andreas BUSER	Ravi SARODE
Mehmet Sinan DAL	Joseph SCHWARTZ
Mehmet ALİ ERKURT	Hans VRIELINK
Serdal KORKMAZ	Robert WEINSTEIN
Miquel LOZANO	Tugce Nur YİGENOĞLU
Rainer MOOG	

ESFH Scientific Committee

Andreas BUSER
Rainer MOOG
Miquel LOZANO
Hans VRIELINK

TSHRD Scientific Committee

Mehmet Sinan DAL
Mehmet ALİ ERKURT
Serdal KORKMAZ
Tugce Nur YİGENOĞLU

*Sorted alphabetically

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR APHERESIS



**Laura Collins,
RN, PSN, HP
(ASCP)
President,
ASFA**

Dear Colleagues,

We are very happy in this troubling environment to have successfully held our 42nd Virtual Annual Meeting from May 12 – 15, 2021. The meeting featured a one-day joint scientific symposium with the International Society for Apheresis (ISFA). The meeting theme was Technology in Apheresis. The meeting received over 550 participants from 21 countries. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate with ISFA.

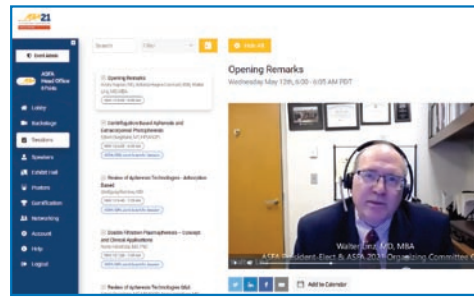
ASFA is also pleased to announce our 2021 Society Award Winners at the ASFA Annual Meeting. Congratulations to the ASFA Presidential Award recipient, Joseph Schwartz, MD, MPH, ASFA Lecturer Award recipient, Jay Raval, MD and ASFA SHS Award recipient, Laura Palomino BSN, RN, HP(ASCP).

New Board of Directors and Officers were also elected at the ASFA 2021 Annual Business Meeting.

All live and pre-recorded sessions are available through the virtual platform until November 15, 2021. More information: www.apheresis.org/2021

Other activities to share:

- On June 16th, 2021, ASFA held a webinar in support of World Sickle Cell Day 2021. A recording of the webinar is available to ASFA members. More information: www.apheresis.org.
- ASFA is planning a 2021 Regional Meeting this Fall, anticipated for November 2021 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Details will be available on the website soon.
- Our 3rd annual Apheresis Awareness day will be celebrated on Tuesday, September 21, 2021. We hope you can join us. More information: www.apheresis.org/AAD2021.
- The 2022 ASFA Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place May 4 – 6 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Apheresis Qualification: ASFA, in partnership with the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification (BOC), previously launched an apheresis qualification called 'Qualification in Apheresis (QIA)'. As of April 30, 2021, we have 182 apheresis professionals with this qualification. More information: www.apheresis.org/QIA.
- ASFA published the Principles of Apheresis Technology – 7th Edition (2020). This textbook provides a basic overview of the theory and application of apheresis.
- More information: www.apheresis.org/PAT



Screen
capture of
Dr. Walter Linz
presenting
the Opening
Remarks.

ASFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

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THE CANADIAN APHERESIS GROUP

*Dear
Colleagues,*

This past December the CAG celebrated 42 years since its first national meeting in 1980. Because of concern for the national plasma supply and the potential drain on this resource by plasma exchange procedures, particularly those for treatment of breast cancer and rheumatoid arthritis, Health Canada supported and financed a meeting of the few active practitioners of apheresis along with delegated physicians from other major medical centres. Since that time we have collected national data on apheresis activities and have worked together to introduce new technologies including, most recently, CART cell production.



Dr. Gail Rock
Chair, CAG

Until 2021 the CAG has had a national meeting which has been held in different cities across the country. In the last two years because of the Covid pandemic we, like so many other organizations, have used webinars to communicate with each other and share information on our activities and proposed undertakings. Chief among these is a planned new study on plasma exchange in septic patients which will be a multicentre study whose principal investigator, Dr. Emily Rimmer, is from Winnipeg.

As for many organizations, the CAG is struggling to maintain the office and activities during the pandemic. Funding is constantly a struggle as we now rely entirely on corporate support for all activities other than those covered by peer-reviewed research grants.

Also, like many other organizations, hospital staffing has become a critical issue and some of our units are extremely short staffed. We take this opportunity to thank our operators and nurses for their hard work and dedication and extend this expression of gratitude to those supporting the WAA centres throughout the world.

Hopefully, many of us will be on the recovery/opening slope before long so that we can meet again in Istanbul and enjoy the opportunities and international friendships provided by the WAA.

We invite you to visit our website at: <https://cagcanada.ca/> where the papers from our last two webinars in February and October 2021 can be viewed.

Best wishes to all and hope you stay safe.

Gail Rock PhD,

MD, FRCP

Chair, Canadian Apheresis Group

CAG Board

Dr. Gail **Rock**
Ottawa, Ontario

Dr. Ronan **Foley**
Hamilton, Ontario

Dr. Louis **Girard**
Calgary, Alberta

Dr. Katerina **Pavenski**
Toronto, Ontario

Dr. Mary-Margaret **Keating**
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dr. Vincent **Laroche**
Quebec City, Quebec

Dr. Susan **Huang**
Toronto, Ontario

Dr. Kim **Ambler**
Vancouver, British Columbia

**The CAG AGM will be held in the fall
of 2022. We hope to meet in person
stay tuned for more information**



**Canadian
Apheresis
Group**

**Groupe
Canadien**



**311-150 Montreal Road
Ottawa, Ontario
K1K 2Z8
CANADA**

Email: cag@cagcanada.ca

Website: www.cagcanada.ca

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF ARTIFICIAL ORGANS

Dear Colleagues,

The European Society for Artificial Organs (ESAO) is a worldwide association for promotion of tissue & organ support and regeneration by artificial organ technology. This involves research and development in the area of artificial and bioartificial organs with a focus on heart, kidney, and lung support and replacement, but also engineering of other organs and tissues.



Apheresis has been within the scope of interest of the ESAO members for many years. One of eight ESAO working groups, which is called **Apheresis and Adsorption** Working Group (chaired by Prof. Volker Witt), is a part of the WAA apheresis registry activity. The WG is focused on a global cooperation of entry and analysis of registry data of all fields of apheresis. Until now, data of more than 70,000 apheresis procedures have been collected in a prospective manner.

The other ESAO working groups are devoted to: **Bioartificial Organs** (chairman: Dimitrios Stamatialis), Education (chairwoman: Gloria Gallego-Ferrer), **Heart Support** (chairmen: Simon Sonntag and Tom Verbelen), **Tissue Engineering** (chairman: Nuno Neves), **Uremic Toxins** (chairmen: Joachim Jankowski and Pieter Evenepoel), albumin studies - **Albumet** (chairmen: Jörg Vienken and Ulrich Baurmeister). In 2020, ESAO together with the European Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (EuroELSO) established a joint working group on **Simulation and Artificial Intelligence in Extracorporeal Life Support**, which is co-chaired by Justyna Swol as the EuroELSO representative and Simon Sonntag as the ESAO representative. Young ESAO members conduct their activities in **yESAO** (chairmen: Martin Maw and Ben Torner).

On February 24-26, our Winter School co-organized, for the first time, with the European Chapter of Tissue Engineering & Regenerative Medicine Society (TERMIS-EU) took place online (virtually in Jaca, Spain). The topic of this event was **"The Bionic Human: Biomaterials, (Bio)Artificial and Bioengineered Organs, and Cybernetics for the Future of Regenerative Medicine"**. The Winter School was organized by Pedro M. Baptista (Zaragoza, Spain).

In 2021, our Society launched a series of educational webinars on artificial organs. This initiative is realized together with IFAO, ASAIO and JSAO. The webinars are coordinated by Gloria Gallego-Ferrer, Thomas Groth and Viktoria Weber. These events are organized on every third Thursday monthly at 12:00 p.m. (CEST).

The next **ESAO Annual Congress** will take place online (virtually in London) on September 7-11, 2021. It is organized by Prof. Ashraf W. Khir from the Brunel University and his team. The

motto of the congress is **"Uniting scientific minds towards lasting artificial organs"**. The scientific program of the Congress will include plenary lectures, regular oral and poster sessions, and special symposia.

The details on the Congress are available at: **esao2021.org**.

All members of societies belonging to WAA are warmly welcome to become ESAO members. More information about the membership as well as future meetings can be found at our homepage www.esao.org.



Sincerely,
Piotr Ladyzynski
President of ESAO

The ESAO Board is composed of Piotr Ladyzynski (Poland) as **President**, Viktoria Weber (Austria) as **President Elect**, Cécile Legallais (France) as **Past President**, Pedro M. Baptista (Spain) as **Secretary General**, Tom Verbelen (Belgium) as **Treasurer**. Horst Klinkmann (Germany) is the **Honorary President** of ESAO and Sergio Stefoni (Italy) is a **Honorary Board Member**. **Governors of ESAO** are: Arianna Di Molfetta (Italy), Gloria Gallego Ferrer (Spain), Marcus Granegger (Germany), Joachim Jankowski (Germany), Alessandra Molteni (UK), Marc Müller (Germany), Nuno Neves (Portugal), Simon Sonntag (Germany), Dimitrios Stamatialis (Netherlands) and Krzysztof Zielinski (Poland). Thomas Groth (Germany), Heinrich Schima (Austria) and Jan Schmitt (Germany) are **Coopted Board Members**.

The **ESAO Office** is hosted by Danube University Krems, Austria with Anita Aichinger as **Secretary** and Viktoria Weber as **ESAO Officer**. The **Corporate Members Chair** is Ares Menon (Germany).

ITALIAN SOCIETY OF HEMAPHERESIS AND CELL MANIPULATION

Dear ALL,

In 2021 we finally met again at the XX SIdEM National Congress in Rimini; the feedback has been positive both for participation and for the topics covered. We dealt with topics that have always characterized the activity of our scientific Society.



During the congress the members of the new Board of Directors were elected: Angelo Ostuni (president), Alessandro Mazzoni (vice president), Michele Vacca (secretary), Anna Colpo (treasurer), Vanessa Agostini, Giovanni Crovetto, Ornella Iuliani, Anna Michelotti, Maria Beatrice Rondinelli (councillors). Patrizia Accorsi is past-president.

Scientific Committee: Carlo Antozzi, Giustina De Silvestro, Mauro Montanari, Francesco Lanza. Chiara Savignano is coordinator of the regional delegates. Alberto Zanella is honorary president.

The year 2021 was characterized, like 2020, by the Covid-19 pandemic; nevertheless, before the Congress, we organized free CME webinars, which were attended by many participants (up to 500 in the case of PBM): "News in immunohaematology", June 2021; "HSC collection in the Covid era", March 2021; "Innovative aspects on patient blood management", February 2021; "Inactivation of platelet concentrates: updates", June 2021 (in collaboration with SIMTI).

Asynchronous FAD "Gene therapy - cell manipulation - therapeutic apheresis in transplantology". SIdEM is increasingly involved in institutional working groups with CNS-CNT-IBMDR.

Our goal is to stimulate the discussion trying to promote scientific culture. In 2022 we want to be protagonists, with the support and participation of all, organizing interregional events with the support of the Companies whose collaboration is essential:

- *two inter-regional events per geographical area (north - center - south) to discuss productive apheresis, application of therapeutic apheresis in red blood cell pathologies, extracorporeal photopheresis, production and manipulation of lymphocytes for cell therapy;*
- *itinerant inter-society events for continuous updating on patient blood management;*
- *national conference on plasma-derived medicinal products.*

The goal is to encourage participation, involving all professionals working in the field of apheresis and beyond, aware that interdisciplinarity is an essential element for the performance of quality health care, based on EBM, for the treatment of patients.

website <http://www.emaferesi.it> (Members area)

Angelo Ostuni
Presidente SIdEM

Board of Directors

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Angelo Ostuni, Bari

Past President

Patrizia Accorsi, Pescara

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Francesco Lanza, Ravenna
Mauro Montanari, Roma
Carlo Antozzi, Milano

SEGRETERIA NAZIONALE

Manuela Trinchero

Tel. 011 7499601

sidem@emaferesi.it

SIdEM
Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 346
65122 Pescara

www.emaferesi.it

HELLENIC HAEMAPHERESIS SOCIETY

*Dear Colleagues
and friends,*

To the
World Apheresis Association (WAA)

Dear Sirs,

The new Administration of the Hellenic Haemapheresis Association, selected on 9th October 2021, consists of the following seven members:

President	: Ioannis GRIVEAS (Mr)
Vice President	: Panagiotis KARMAS (Mr)
General Secretary	: Panagiota DOURAMANI (Ms)
Special Secretary	: Parthena KYRIKLIDOU (Ms)
Treasurer	: Paraskevi TSEKE (Ms)
Members	: Evdoxia GINIKOPOULOU (Ms) Styliani PLAVOUKOU (Ms)

The contact details of the new President Mr Ioannis GRIVEAS are as follows:

E-mail : hha@hha.com.gr or giannisgriv@hotmail.com
Telephone number : +30 693 2379323

The contact details of Vice President Mr Panagiotis KARMAS are as follows:

E-mail : hha@hha.com.gr or mdkarmas@gmail.com
Telephone number : +30 694 7686863

Please change all
of your files and
note the
above changes.

Sincerely Yours,

The President



Ioannis GRIVEAS

Ελληνική Εταιρεία Αιμαφαίρεσης

Λεωφ. Κηφισίας 193 & Ι. Δούση 24

151 24 Αθήνα

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Φαξ : +30 210 6984294

Email : hha@hha.com.gr

<https://www.hha.com.gr>



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ ΑΙΜΑΦΑΙΡΕΣΗΣ

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E.E.A. 2021 -2024

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Παναγιώτα Ντουραμάνη
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Στυλιανή Πλαβούκου
Evdoxia GINIKOPOULOU
Styliani PLAVOUKOU

BRAZILIAN ASSOCIATION OF HEMATOLOGY, HEMOTHERAPY AND CELL THERAPY

Dear Colleagues,

ABOUT ABHH:

- Non-profit Civil Association;
- Scientific, Social and Cultural Character;
- 4.300 members
- Congregates physicians devoted to the practice of hematology, blood transfusion, cell therapy and as well as other professionals in related fields.

e-Learning programs

- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Aplastic Anemia
- Hemostasis and Thrombosis

Publications: Hematology, Transfusion and Cell Therapy

- Scientific journal
- Trimonthly publication
- Circulation 3.500 copies
- Scientific output rate similar to Chinese and other emerging Countries publications
- Indexation: PubMed Central, PubMed Medline, Scielo, Scopus Database, Lilacs, Extramed

Guidelines:

- Chronic Myeloid Leukemia
- Plasma Cell Disorders (Myeloma)
- Thrombocytopenia: ITP, TTP, and aHUS
- Sickle Cell Disease
- Myelodysplastic Syndromes
- Myeloproliferative Neoplasms
- Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia
- Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia
- Transfusion Medicine
- Aplastic Anemia
- CAR-T CELL

*Dante Langhi Jr., MD, PhD,
President
Brazilian Association of
Hematology, Hemotherapy
and Cell Therapy*



**Dante Langhi Jr.,
MD, PhD
President, ABHH**

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General Manager:

Aline Achê

Committee Coordinator: Carmino

Antônio de Souza

Emeritus Scientific Director:

Roberto Passetto Falcão



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR APHERESIS

*Dear
Colleagues,*

The value of apheresis treatment has been recognized in many fields of medicine. For this treatment to continue developing, it is imperative that we expand our knowledge of medicine, biology, and engineering in order to refine our tools and techniques.



Andre Kaplan (USA)
President, ISFA

ISFA is the unique international society for apheresis mainly composed of individual members. Almost 500 members from all over the world join us today. The main objective of the ISFA is to disseminate, on an international basis, the most up-to-date apheresis technologies and their clinical applications so that all may benefit from the efforts of ISFA. We have just started to discuss collaborative activity with ASFA.

ISFA Congresses are to be held once every two years. The next congress, ISFA 2023 (ISFA 14th Congress), will be held 2023 in Germany. The Congress President is Prof. Bernd Hohenstein (Germany).

The Congress will focus on Apheresis in Cardiology/Lipids, Immunology, Rheumatology, Neurology, Nephrology, and Infectious Diseases/Sepsis, Regulatory, Gastroenterology, Liver, and Dermatology. Additionally, we anticipate collaborating with other apheresis organizations to further advance the science and attract participants to the congress. We work toward fulfilling the vision of medicine established by Hippocrates in the 5th century B.C.

ISFA has a subdivision in Europe, The European Group - International Society for Apheresis e.V. (E-ISFA).

We sincerely invite you to join our congresses.

Warm regards,

B. Hohenstein (Germany)
President, ISFA

ISFA CONGRESSES & CONGRESS PRESIDENTS

1st Congress (1996.4)	Kyoto, Japan	A. Yamamoto
2nd Congress (1999.4)	Saarbrücken, Germany	R. Bambauer
3rd Congress (2001.1)	Taipei, Taiwan	H. C. Chiu
4th Congress (2003.10)	Nashville, USA	G. Siami
5th Congress (2005.5)	Rostock, Germany	P. Schuff-Werner
6th Congress (2007.3)	Yokohama, Japan	T. Akizawa
7th Congress (2009.3)	Buenos Aires, Argentina	A. Kaplan
8th Congress (2011.9)	Vienna, Austria	K. Derfer
9th Congress (2013.5)	Hangzhou, China	L. Li
10th Congress (2015.5)	Cancun, Mexico	P. Moriarty
11th Congress (2017.5)	Copenhagen, Denmark	W. Szpirt
12th Congress (2019.10)	Kyoto, Japan	Y. Endo
13th Congress (2021.3)	Dresden, Germany / in Virtual	A. Kaplan

THE OFFICERS AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 12TH TERM (2021-2023)

President	B. Hohenstein (Germany)
President-elect	K. Yamaji (Japan)
Immediate Past-President	A. Kaplan (USA)
Congress President (13th America)	B. Sachais (USA)
Vice President	B. Sachais (USA) L. Rostaing (France) M. Harada-Shiba (Japan)
Secretary Treasurer	Y. Endo (Japan)
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REGIONAL OFFICES

America:	P. Malchesky, P. Moriarty, A. Torloni
Europe:	W. Szpirt, V. Witt, W. Ramlow
Pan-Pacific:	H. Matsuo, K. Lin

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- K. Twombly (USA)
- F. Siami (USA)
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- T. Ueno (USA)
- T. Fulop (USA)
- D. Kiprof (USA)
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- N. Koga (Japan)
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- L. Li (China)
- N. Hanafusa (Japan)
- T. Ito (Japan)
- M. Kusaoi (Japan)
- T. Asano (Japan)
- S. Ogawa (Japan)

ISRAELI TRANSFUSION MEDICINE WORKING GROUP (ITMWG)

The Israeli Transfusion Medicine

Working Group (ITMWG) members are engaged in all aspects of Transfusion



האיגוד הישראלי להמטולוגיה ולרפואת עירויים
ISRAEL SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY AND TRANSFUSION MEDICINE

Medicine and Apheresis. ITMWG members are medical doctors, PhD's, laboratory workers, medical technologists and apheresis operators.

Apheresis procedures are performed in many hospitals in Israel in accordance with international guidelines and standard operating procedures. Common donor apheresis procedures include platelet apheresis, leukopheresis and plasmapheresis. Routine therapeutic apheresis procedures carried out in Israeli hospitals include therapeutic plasma exchange, photopheresis in both closed and open systems, RBC exchange as well as allogeneic and autologous stem cell collection.

In some of the tertiary hospitals in Israel, approximately 2,000 apheresis procedures are done annually.

ITMWG operates under the Israeli society of hematology and Transfusion Medicine and as such, we are bound to the bylaws of the society.

The COVID pandemic empathized again the importance of the health system infrastructure strength, including hospitals and Blood Services and the need to adopt new procedures that will ensure patients and operators safety.

We are excited and thankful to become a society member of the World Apheresis Association, to learn, exchange ideas and expand apheresis education, knowledge and research from our colleagues around the globe for the benefit of patients and caregivers.

Vered Yahlom MD
ITMWG Chair

Liron Miller PhD
ITMWG Secretary

WEBINARS

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the WAA was unable to host the 17th International Congress in Turkey in October 2020 as originally planned. However, in April 2021, the WAA hosted a virtual webinar entitled *Apheresis Applications in the Covid Pandemic* with four international guest speakers.

Due to the success of this international webinar, the WAA hosted another virtual webinar on September 15, 2021 on the *Role of Apheresis in Cellular Therapies, Transplantation and Thrombosis Following Covid-19*. A total of four presentations were given.

To view these Webinars please go to:

<https://worldapheresis.org/webinars/>

The WAA would like to thank **Terumo Blood** and **Cell Technologies** for sponsoring the 2021 webinars





World Apheresis Association PUBLICATIONS

Our Official Journal

Transfusion and Apheresis Science

Transfusion and Apheresis Science brings comprehensive and up-to-date information to physicians and health care professionals involved in the rapidly changing fields of transfusion medicine, hemostasis and apheresis. The journal presents original articles relating to scientific and clinical studies in the areas of **immunohematology, transfusion practice, bleeding and thrombotic disorders** and both **therapeutic** and **donor apheresis** including **hematopoietic stem cells**. Topics covered include the collection and processing of blood, compatibility testing and guidelines for the use of blood products, as well as screening for and transmission of **blood-borne diseases**. All areas of apheresis - therapeutic and collection - are also addressed. We would like to specifically encourage allied health professionals in this area to submit manuscripts that relate to improved patient and donor care, technical aspects and educational issues.



Transfusion and Apheresis Science - Journal - Elsevier

THE WAA NEWSLETTER

Highlights of
important
developments in
apheresis

Up-to-date news
from member
Societies

Announcements
of new member societies

Details of upcoming meetings and events

Promotes the exchange of information

Includes lists of officers and executive
boards

Offers a networking opportunity for
apheresis physicians and practitioners
world-wide



THIS ISSUE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY



This newsletter has been sponsored by **TERUMO**, a major corporation providing the sophisticated devices that make our procedures possible.

To them, many thanks! To all of you, Best Wishes—may we meet again in 2022!